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STATINTL

**"Shun Birch Society Like Plague,"  
Doctors Advised**

**EXTENSION OF REMARKS  
OF**

**HON. HENRY S. REUSS**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1961

Mr. REUSS. Mr. Speaker, it is encouraging to see the rising tide of public opinion against the John Birch Society. Recently the Wisconsin State Medical Society has added its voice to those warning against this extremist organization. In an editorial in the June issue of the Wisconsin Medical Journal they urge doctors to diagnose political evil with the same care used for physical ills.

The full text of the editorial follows:

The crackpot, the crank and the common, garden-variety screwball have always been characteristic of our democracy. Viewed as a fragment of the lunatic fringe, the John Birch Society may seem more ridiculous than worthy of concern. But what this group and its wealthy leader and founder, Robert Welch, stand for will produce a sick sensation in the stomach of every patriotic American.

The information that prominent medical men in several communities have associated themselves with the John Birch Society causes dismay and consternation among doctors of sense and perception.

The John Birch Society purports to fight communism. To do this it organizes secret and semi-secret groups who look around their own communities for Communists to expose. The society's Blue Book urges mean and dirty techniques, underground infiltration, front organizations, and, in fact, all the methods the Communists themselves use.

Among the Americans whom Robert Welch, a retired candy manufacturer, thinks might be members of the Communist underground are President Eisenhower, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allen Dulles, now head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The John Birch Society is, in its structure, rankly authoritarian. It insists that there be no accounting of the funds contributed to it "for reasons you will understand." It regards democracy as a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud.

Naturally, this kind of a setup has attracted such characters as J. E. Matthews, one-time superleuth for the late Senator Joseph B. McCarthy, who got fired from his job for picking on American clergymen as supporters of the Communist apparatus.

It gathers the perennial paranoid who sees a conspiracy against him in every healthy, happy development of our Nation.

It is readymade for that slimy corruption of the body politic that would disgrace the underside of a rock. It is the spothecosis of the Silver Shirts, the American Vigilantes, the Crusaders for Economic Liberty and other demagogued hate groups of the 1930's and early 1940's, and it draws together the survivors of these unfortunate, but happily defunct organizations.

Cloaked with a phony respectability and supported by big money, the organizers of the John Birch Society would make such fellow operators as Gerald L. K. Smith, William D. Pedley and Gerald Winrod turn green with envy.

That a few good men, who, of all people, should be in balance and be a force for ulterior

Society, or its affiliates, is a disgrace to the entire profession.

There is room in our democracy for difference of opinion, and, as a Nation, we exercise our right to dissent almost to the point of license. But there is no room for the betrayal of our ideals, and the John Birch Society is an avowed opponent of the democratic ideal expressed in a republican form of government.

It says it is anti-Communist; it is really antidemocratic. Robert Welch and his minions call themselves ultraconservative. They take as their heroes the late Senator Robert Taft and Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Senator Taft can't defend himself and General MacArthur has not yet commented.

But there is no question, after what has happened in communities like Glenview, Ill., and Santa Barbara, Calif., the John Birch Society is antidemocratic. Its theme is hate, its method disruption. Like the Nazi Party in Germany, it uses anticommunism as a tool to establish a totalitarian America.

Hunting traitors, Communists or any other kind, is the business of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Over the years, these organizations have done their job well—far better than local loud-mouths who looked for Communist propaganda in Girl Scout handbooks and found enemy agents where none existed.

This country does not need private vigilante groups to protect our institutions. We don't need the John Birch Society and its conspiratorial methods. Our country is strong in its faith, firm in its ideals, and steadfast in its devotion to the principles which the John Birch Society abhors.

It is to be hoped that the doctors who have allowed their names to be used by the John Birch Society are innocent victims of misinformation. Let them serve as examples for the rest of us who love our country and cherish democracy. Let us beware of being deceived by high-sounding, super-patriotic organizations whose ultimate aim is the destruction of our Nation.

Let us use the same perception in the diagnosis of political evil that we would use in the diagnosis of physical maladies.

Let us shun the John Birch Society and its front organizations like the plague.

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